THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of Government of India.

(b)and (c) No expert team has been deputed to carry out investgations about the wells going dry during the last three years. However, central teams have been deputed to the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Praesh, Rajasthan and Bihar to assess the drought situation and the requirement of additional central assistance for meeting the situation.

(d) Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure a State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary decide all matters relating to management of relief operations including norms of assistance.

Monitoring of IRDP and NREP Programmes

1787. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what agency Government have appointed to verify and check the accuracy and varacity of report submitted by the State Governments and other agencies in regard to the IRDP and NREP programmes; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to increase further employment opportunities in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) In so far as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is concerned, State Government reports are accepted and no further verification is carried out in respect of these reports. However, the voluminous data available through Concurrent Evaluation of IRDP is analysed and used for comparison with the information furnished by the State Governments. As regards National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), this programme has been discontinued w.e.f. 31st March, 1989 and a new programme called Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been launched after merging erstwhile programmes of National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). In respect of N. R. E. P. programmes no separate agency had been appointed to check the accuracy and veracity of the report submitted by the State Governments.

(b) As regards increase in the employment opportunities, it is proposed to increase the coverage of beneficiaries under IRDP to increase self-employment opportunities during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period. Similarly, the JRY Plan outlay is likely to be substantially increased during the Eighth Five Year Plan for creation of larger employment opportunities in the rural areas.

Progress made by the Projects for promotion of Advanced Research

1788. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of major projects are under progress at the Indo-Franch Centre for the promotion of Advanced Research;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the number of the projects which have been successfully completed so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

43 projects are currently being implemented with the support of Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research.

(b) The projects are in the following 15 thrust areas in which IFCPAR supports collaborative activities between the two countries :

— Pure and Applied Mathematics

— Theoretical Computer Science; Natural Language Processing; Computer Systems

— Cellular and Molecular Biology/ Genetics; Genetic Engineering; Biotechnology including applications to Medicine and Agronomy

— Medical Sciences : Epidemiology; Immunology; Virology; Development of new vaccines and new drugs; Bio-medical Engineering (e.g. design of artificial aids)

— Chemistry of natural products with special reference to biologically active compounds; Agro-chemicals

— Catalysis - Science and Engineering;

— Liquid Interface Science

— Materials Science and Engineering; Advanced Ceramics, Composites; Polymers

— Rare Earths

— Astro-Physics and Radio Astronomy

— Geophysics; Geosphere-Biosphere

— Remote Sensing

— Water Resources

— Semi - Conductor Physics; Opto-electronics; Micro-electronics

— Separation Science and Technology.

(c) Two projects have been successfully completed, viz;

— Numerical modelling of the Ocean-atmosphere system with special reference to monsoons.

— Segregation and surface properties of Pt-based alloys : experimental and theoretical approach.

Funds allotted to the Intitute of Advanced Research in Science and Technology in Assam

1789. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present position of the proposed Institute of Advance Research in Science and Technology in Assam under the Assam Accord;

(b) whether any fund has been allocated by Government to the Institute for the current year;

(c) whether the Institute would be established under the Central Government; and

(d) if not so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) An Inter-Ministerial meeting was held on 4-11-1991 involving verious scientific agencies of the Centre, representatives of Planning Commission, Home Ministry as well as Government of Assam. It was decided that the Science and Technology activities in Assam are to be enhanced through the existing Institute for Advanced Study in Science and Technology, and for this the resources required should be projected by the Assam Government appropriately in their eighth Five Year Plan, for consideration by the Planning Commission.

Assam Government is expected to take necessary follow up action in consultation with the Planning Commission on the decision taken in the Inter-Ministerial meeting.

Women Engineers in the Country

1790. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of women engineers has gone up tenfolds during the last 15 years;

(b) if so, the number of women engineers in the country in the beginning of the year 1992;

(c) whether a large number of women engineers remain unemployed and male engineers are given perference over women engineers by the employers; and